

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 874  
By Casada

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Laura Lee Crafton, on her selection as High School Teacher of the Year by the Williamson County School System.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Laura Lee Crafton is one such estimable educator, who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Crafton has recently been selected High School Teacher of the Year by Williamson County Schools, an honor most befitting her outstanding tenure as a teacher as it recognizes the positive influence she has had on so many young lives; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Crafton has served with acumen and alacrity as a biology and science teacher at Fairview High School for many years; she has also served as Fairview's Dance Team Sponsor, Prom Advisor, Science Department Head, Student Council Advisor, and Cheerleading Coach; and

WHEREAS, attending Middle Tennessee State University, Laura Crafton received her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and Master of Education degree in Curriculum and Instruction; and

WHEREAS, Laura Crafton was the Assistant Director and Dance Instructor at the Performing Arts Academy from 1990 to 1999; and

WHEREAS, participating in numerous professional associations and programs, Laura Crafton is a member of the Tennessee Academy of Sciences, National Science Teachers Association, Tennessee Geographical Alliance, Tennessee Educators of Aquatic and Marine Sciences, Tennessee Science Teachers Association, Association for Supervision and

Curriculum Development, Beta Beta Beta Biological Honors Society, Gamma Beta Phi Honors Society, Tennessee Education Association, National Education Association, and Williamson County Education Association; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Laura Crafton has received numerous awards and grants, including the Advanced Placement Expansion Grant for AP Biology, John A. Patten Scholarship from the University of Southern Mississippi, the Dwight D. Eisenhower Professional Grant at Middle Tennessee State University, the Toyota Tapestry Grant, and the Fairview High School BETA Club Teacher of the Month Award (April 2003); and

WHEREAS, Laura Crafton has also attended and given presentations at numerous workshops and conventions, including the Tennessee Geographic Alliance Summer Workshop at Middle Tennessee State University, National Science Teachers Association National Convention, the AP Biology Workshop at Millsaps College, and the AP Biology Workshop at Baylor University; and

WHEREAS, committed to professional development and training, Laura Crafton has attended the Williamson County Schools Professional Development Day for High School Science Teachers and training sessions for new science department members; she is also a mentor to new teachers at Fairview and a collegial coach; and

WHEREAS, a tireless fundraiser and public servant, Ms. Crafton organized a toy collection program for Vanderbilt Children's Hospital, and she has raised funds and coordinated the Fairview High School Prom, Homecoming, and Fall, Winter, and Spring Sports Senior Recognition Night; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Crafton is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential, in both academics and extracurricular activities; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Crafton truly serves as an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike, and her friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, Laura Crafton truly epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Laura Lee Crafton upon being named the High School Teacher of the Year by the Williamson County School System, commend her exceptional service to the children of Tennessee, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.